

ROBINS RevUp



News you can use

Macon Knights honor military members Saturday

The Macon Knights, the local arena football team, will hold a Military Appreciation Night at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Macon Coliseum. Col. and Mrs. Greg Patterson, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will represent the base and participate in opening ceremonies along with the Robins Honor Guard and an Air Force Reserve Command vocalist to perform the national anthem. The Knights plan to honor military personnel with a halftime show, giveaways and discounted tickets through Information, Tickets and Travel. ITT is selling "special" discounted tickets for military members and civilians. For more information, call the ITT office at 926-2945.

— From staff reports

Housing Office closed half-day May 13

The Housing Office will be closed May 13 from 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for the Center Safety Day. If you have any housing maintenance issues, call ACC Maintenance at 923-8033 or the Service Call desk at 926-5657 or cell phone at 955-0147.

— From staff reports

Rev-Up staff soars in media contests

Staff Sgt. Brian Bahret, Rev-Up graphic artist, earned the highest graphic arts award in the Department of Defense for his graphic depicting where people from Robins deploy in the War on Terrorism.

Sergeant Bahret's Thomas Jefferson Award-winning submission beat the best graphic entries from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard in the program.

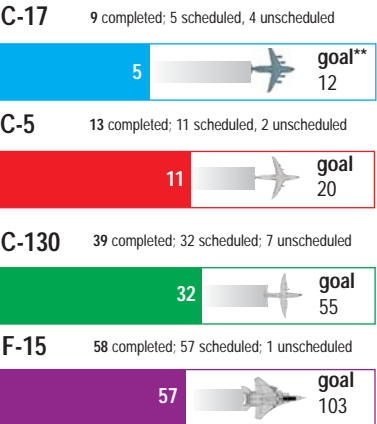
Sergeant Bahret's graphic first won at the Air Force Materiel Command and Air Force level awards. Additionally, the Robins Rev-Up was named the Air Force's best metro format newspaper for the second consecutive year, Geoff Janes, Rev-Up editor, was named Air Force print journalist of the year, and Sue Sapp, Rev-Up photographer, took second place in photography.

Mr. Janes is competing for the DoD print journalist of the year award against the best writers from other services. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in Maryland, May 20.

— From staff reports

Aircraft Maintenance Output

The information below reflects Robins' progress toward maintenance goals for fiscal 2005 as of May 3.



**Goal is for scheduled maintenance on-time delivery only; unscheduled aircraft don't count toward fiscal year goals.

Source: Doug Clark Jr., depot maintenance workload analyst, 402nd Maintenance Wing

U.S. Air Force graphic by Angela Trunzo

Raising the bar



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp



U.S. Air Force photo by Wanda Jarzynka

Above, a 245-foot long, 30-foot wide and 25-foot tall box truss is lifted into place April 29 at the new paint/depaint facility on the flight line. The 110 ton box truss required three cranes and took about 45 minutes to lift and is the heaviest section of structural steel ever lifted at Robins. Left, Ron Diehl, Austin Construction site project manager, Col. Larry Eriksen, 402nd Maintenance Wing deputy director, Tom Calloway, Austin structural superintendent, and Jerry Thovson, civil engineering project manager, were present as workers raised the truss.

BRAC list expected by May 16

From staff and wire reports

As the clock continues to wind down on the Base Realignment and Closure process, Robins and the rest of Middle Georgia wait for the results that will decide the future of the state's largest industrial complex.

The first official list of bases that will close or realign through BRAC is set to be released this month when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld publishes his recommendations in the Federal Register and submits his recommendations to the BRAC Commission and Congress.

Base officials said although there is speculation on the release date of the list, the authoritative word according to the Defense Department's official BRAC Web page is that the BRAC commission will receive the recommendations from the secretary of defense no later than May 16.

Once Secretary Rumsfeld submits his recommendations, the commission will hold hearings and examine the recommendations. The commission process runs through September. The commission sends an "all-or-nothing list" to the

Please see **BRAC, 2A**

Forum keeps things Lean

Symposium attendees share experiences, learn new ideas

By Lanorris Askew

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The third annual Georgia International Lean Symposium brought together hundreds of government and industry representatives from across the country and beyond to share ideas on Lean and learn how the systematic approach to eliminating waste is continuing to flourish.

With the theme of "Learning the MRO Enterprise," the three-day event allowed attendees to not only share their success, but to benchmark off the successes of others.

"The main goals of the symposium are to, one, learn something new that can be taken back to the workplace and, two, to network with others and learn from them," said Jessica Wilson, symposium committee board of directors member.

What to know

Lean is a systematic approach to eliminating waste in industrial and manufacturing processes pioneered by Taiichi Ohno from Toyota Production Systems and adapted in Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul organizations.

Please see **LEAN, 2A**

Airmen give second chances through safe rides home

What to know

AADD is a non-retribution program designed to decrease the number of DUIs. It is run by volunteers who help keep fellow Airmen safe by providing free, anonymous rides home. Newcomers are welcome to attend weekly meetings each Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Wynn Dining Facility. All volunteers do not have to carry phones. The AADD gave 74 safe rides last year.

To request a ride home, call 335-5236, 335-5238 or 335-5218

By Lanorris Askew

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A ringing telephone in the middle of night may startle the average person for fear of bad news, but for Robins' Airmen Against Drunk Driving program volunteers it brings a sigh of relief that at least one more person has made the right choice.

The right choice – to not drink and drive, but to dial a number that will connect them with one of dozens of volunteers and a safe ride home.

Senior Airman Eric Manning knows all too well the impact of someone making

the decision to take a chance behind the wheel.

"I've had eight best friends and two close family members pass away dealing with drunken drivers," said the program advisor. "I joined AADD for the simple fact I could save lives and careers."

Although their day jobs pay the bills, it's their after-hours gig that impacts the volunteers most. Just ask Airman 1st Class Tatiana Smith Crooks.

"A friend I made at First Term Airman's Center when I first arrived on base was involved in a car accident when

Please see **RIDES, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

From left, Airman 1st Class Brandon Stackpole, Airman 1st Class Jennell Evans, Senior Airman Sharitta Watson and Airman 1st Class Tatiana Crooks stand beside a car, which serves as a reminder to not drink and drive, at the Russell Parkway gate.

Robins 3-day forecast

Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW

Today
Partly cloudy



73/54

Saturday
Mostly sunny



79/50

Sunday
Mostly sunny



84/57

What's inside

New network training center to open in June **4A**
New digital phone system offers modern features **8A**
Military moms balance commitment to family, service **11A**
Mentoring program celebrates successes with picnic **4B**

These boots were made for (FOD) walkin’



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Members of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron perform a foreign object debris, or FOD, walk April 29 on the flight line.

RIDES

Continued from 1A

a drunk driver collided with his car,” said the program’s secretary. “It resulted in a broken hip and could have ended his military career before it started. When I visited him in the hospital, it only reinforced my opinion that a program like AADD can only help and strengthen our military community.”

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Kuykendall, a 19-year-old 78th Communication Squadron secure communications technician, won’t be able to drink legally for two more years, but he has long known the importance of taking responsibility when the time comes.

“We’re not discouraging drinking,” said the program’s vice president. “We are encouraging drinking responsibly. There’s always someone you can call. All DUIs can be prevented.”

The Robins AADD program was founded in 2000 by members of the 116th Air Control Wing and has grown to now also include the 19th Air Refueling Group. Volunteers from the two organizations offer free rides to any DOD card-carrying personnel including dependants, retirees and civilians

who have had too much to drink.

The service offers a safe ride home without any repercussions.

“It doesn’t matter what their rank is or the birth date on their ID cards,” said Airman Kuykendall. “We come to the aid of anyone in need.”

Airman 1st Class Jennell Evans, program president, volunteers because she wants to help people and spread the word about the program.

“I have friends who have gotten DUIs and faced the consequences of an Article 15,” she said. “I joined the program in hopes of informing people of the effect that drinking and driving could have on your career. If we can prevent people from driving while intoxicated then our job is done.”

She added that it’s important to remember that AADD is a program that should be used as a last resort.

“We encourage you to have a designated driver, take a cab, or just stay where you are (if you can),” she said. “If those plans fall through, then we are here for you. The main thing is to drink responsibly.”

Does it ever get tiring to have to get out of bed in the wee hours to drive across the county to take someone home?

“It never gets old answering the calls because I don’t mind helping people out occasionally,” said 1st Lt. Jason Mayne. “The reason is there are enough volunteers that it’s rare someone carries a phone for more than a few days. The folks I’ve picked up have been really courteous, professional, and appreciative which makes things all the better.”

Senior Airman Sharitta Watson agreed.

“When I get a call in the middle of the night the only thing that crosses my mind is ‘here is someone else we can help get home safely and keep out of trouble,’” she said. “I’m not particularly happy to get calls in the middle of the night, but I am always up to help another airman in need.”

Lieutenant Mayne, whose younger sister’s death at the hands of a drunk driver was the impetus of his helping to revive the Robins program, thanks every single person who has called for a ride home.

“I feel like something good has to come out of everything; maybe reviving the AADD program saved someone’s life. Maybe one of the 74 intoxicated persons that we took home last year would have been killed or killed someone else. All it took was one irresponsible person to kill my little sister.”

BRAC

Continued from 1A

president, meaning the president can approve all of the closures and realignments on the list or disapprove the entire list. If he approves, the list goes to Congress.

The House and Senate have 45 “legislative days” to disapprove the list. If they do nothing, the list automatically is approved and has the “force and effect of law,” federal officials said.

Few people dispute that the U.S. military has too much infrastructure to face the threats and opportunities of the 21st century. The question is, what is the best way to close or realign installations to match those challenges?

Since 1988, the answer has been the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and that process continues to move ahead with a new round in 2005.

Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen first proposed the current round soon after taking office in 1997, officials said. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has been asking for a new round of closures and realignments since taking office in January 2001.

BRAC is a challenging process, officials said. The four

previous BRAC rounds – in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 – brought about 97 major closures, 55 major realignments and 235 minor actions. Overall, officials said closing and realigning those installations saved American taxpayers about \$18 billion through fiscal 2001 and a further \$7 billion per year since.

A BRAC report submitted in March 2004 estimated there is a 24-percent excess capacity in DoD.

Civilian and military leaders in the department have stressed that the military must become more agile and flexible to face the new challenges. Officials have repeatedly said the BRAC process must be seen as part of a larger effort to restructure the global footprint of the U.S. military. As part of this, U.S. bases overseas will close or morph into nonpermanent installations. Officials estimate the number of troops in Europe will drop from 100,000 to about 50,000.

In Korea, the number of U.S. forces is already dropping from 34,000, but officials have not released a final target number for troops on the peninsula.

The BRAC 2005 process builds on lessons learned from past rounds. Essentially, this year’s legislation took previous versions and amended them,

officials said.

In 2003, DoD officials published the draft selection criteria. In March 2004, department officials submitted the force-structure plan and infrastructure inventory to Congress. The next month, Congress approved the final selection criteria.

In March, the president nominated the commissioners that will serve on the BRAC Commission. This month, Secretary Rumsfeld will send the department’s closure and realignment recommendations to the commission, officials said.

The basic process is simple, officials said. The military services and joint cross-service groups develop closure and realignment recommendations. Military value is the primary consideration.

The law also mandates that department officials use a 20-year force-structure plan in forming their recommendations.

The services examine each base’s “service-unique” function. This year, cross-service groups will analyze functions that cross service lines.

Cross-service groups are examining seven functional areas: educational and training, headquarters and support activities, industrial, intelligence, medical, supply and storage, and technical.

LEAN

Continued from 1A

“When we’re on our day-to-day jobs we only get to talk to one another, but by talking to people from outside you get fresh thinking.”

That opportunity for fresh ideas led 400 people to the Museum of Aviation’s Century of Flight Hangar for the symposium this week.

Welcoming the crowd with noteworthy Lean initiatives in place here which have led to continued improved war fighter support, Brig. Gen. Chris Anzalone, Center vice commander, said at some point we have all been asked to do the almost impossible task of doing more with less, but Lean thinking allows us to do more with the same.

“If you apply the Lean principles properly you can adjust resources to the workload and demands you’re given,” he said. “At a time when the nation is at war and when strategically we’ve got to be able to do more

with the same, we’re finding out that we are able to do that.”

The vice commander said the proof is in the pudding and challenged the audience to put the symposium to good use.

“The bottom line is Lean has enabled us to deliver aircraft back to the war fighter and the fight faster,” he said. “Use this Lean conference to network amongst each other so you end up so much smarter and we can now all do more with the same together.”

Hosted by the 21st Century Partnership, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Middle Georgia Military Affairs Committee, the event was an opportunity for attendees to keep ideas moving.

“We were the first to start a Lean symposium for maintenance repair and overhaul,” said Ms. Wilson. “Subsequent to that there have been other symposiums started, but we were the first, so obviously for that reason it’s important for us to keep it up, but it’s also important from a cultural perspective.”

She said they want to keep Lean alive and thriving.

“When you are trying to get an organization of 25,000 people to change it’s not going to happen overnight, so this is something that helps keep the continuity up,” she said.

The symposium featured more than two dozen guest speakers representing industry, education and specialized Lean applications from across the U.S. and the United Kingdom including Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, and former Center commander Lt. Gen. Donald Wetekam, who now serves as deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics in Washington D.C.

It also included several exhibitors who displayed their services and products that can help in Lean conversions, a series of pre-symposium workshops designed to provide attendees an in-depth look at targeted aspects of Lean process improvement and breakout sessions.

Family liaison officers give military, civilians support, find resources during time of loss

By Holly L. Birchfield
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When life’s tragedies strike and you don’t have all the answers, Family Liaison Officers are there to find the support you need.

Since the program’s start in 2000, hundreds of Robins servicemembers and civilians have served as Family Liaison Officers, helping fellow Airmen and civil service employees and their families handle the details of a close loved one’s death.

FLOs are jointly chosen on a case-by-case basis by the unit commander and the unit’s Air Force Survivor Assistance Program representative based on maturity and rank.

Capt. Sandra Quinones, 78th Services Division’s Combat Support Flight commander, oversees the Survivors Assistance-based liaison program and said FLO gives a personal touch to what can sometimes seem like an impersonal process.

“Family liaison officers are the [connection] between the family in need and the Air Force,” she said. “They help the family get through all the red tape [of dealing with everything associated with a loved one’s death]. If the family went to a briefing and they couldn’t remember who talked about a death benefit, they would go to their FLO and the FLO would bring that person to them.”

In addition to base-related items pertaining to the loved one’s death, FLOs, offer assistance with setting up funeral arrangements, putting people in touch with resources to learn how to manage finances after a loved one’s death and other necessary support resources

that help the surviving family member cope.

While taking on the responsibility of helping a fellow Airman or civil service employee make final arrangements for a loved one can seem overwhelming, Master Sgt. Douglas Guyton, 78th Services Division Plans and Programs Division manager, trains FLOs to handle the stress of such situations, gives them the tools to lend the needed support.

“When I get a call or e-mail that an individual has been identified as a FLO, I set up a time to sit down with the person and go over a pamphlet of information that explains what the different helping agencies on base offer, their (points of contact) and how they can use these things to get people the help they need,” he said. “We show them a video that provides examples of previous FLOs and their experiences, so people can get a better idea of how the program works.”

Sergeant Guyton, who has trained military and civilians to be effective FLOs for two years, said FLOs help make sense out of what can be a complicated and an emotion-charged process.

“(FLOs) are not the experts,” he said. “They’re simply there to get people in touch with the experts.”



Master Sgt. Douglas Guyton gives Family Liaison Officers the tools to lend support to families.

Sergeant Guyton said FLOs are expected to maintain a log of contact made with the people they serve and provide the mortuary affairs office with a weekly update on their situation.

Captain Quinones, who has worked with the program for nearly two years, said the liaisons exemplify the “People First ... Mission Always” attitude of Robins.

“It’s all about doing the right thing to help that family during a crisis in their lives,” she said. “We are a big Air Force family and we take care of our own.”

Karen Johnson, a human resources officer with the 78th Mission Support Group’s Services Division, knows that first-hand - she recently served as a FLO to one of her co-workers.

“I did everything from going to the funeral home to help him make the funeral arrangements to helping him determine what type of vault, ceremony and clothes for (his wife),” she said. “Right now, I’m making contact with doctors’ offices to help him get doctor bills paid and getting insurance straightened out. Whatever he needs me to help with, I’m there....That’s my job.”

The Miss. native, who recently assisted with a tree dedication for her co-worker’s deceased wife, said the experience of helping another is rewarding.

“In Services, it has always been our motto that we’re there to help people,” she said. “We’re like a big family. Once you get involved in helping these families, you kind of get to be a part of their family. It shows that this is not just a job you come to every day. We’re there for those who work with us.”

What to know

The Family Liaison Officer program provides servicemembers and civilians, who have experienced the death of a spouse, with a single source for finding resources and support. In special instances where a military member or civilian and his or her spouse die, FLOs are assigned the surviving families involved. Military FLOs, with a rank of master sergeant and above, and civil service FLOs, with a rank of GS-09 and above, are assigned by unit commanders.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Douglas Guyton at 926-3194.

Vet Clinic gets military to strike pose with furry pals for pet, owner look-alike contest

By Holly L. Birchfield
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Have you ever heard anyone say that you look like your furry best friend?

That’s what participants in the Army Veterinarian Clinic’s Pet-Owner Look-Alike Contest are hoping to hear May 27, as judges decide who favors their pets the most.

Vicki Hart, an operations clerk for the Vet Clinic, said the contest gives the clinic’s staff a chance to have fun with their clients and educate pet owners about pet care during the month.

“The first week of May is known as Pet Week,” she said. “At the Vet Clinic though, we’ve turned it into Pet Month. This contest is a way to bring our clients in and have a little fun with them.”

While some people may not see their cat or dog as a chip off the old block, Ms. Hart said many resemble their pets more than they’d care to admit.

Debbie Patterson, the base commander’s wife, who will be judging in the contest, said she looks forward to the event.

“I’m really looking forward to judging the many entries, I’m sure we’ll have at this event,” she said. “I just hope I don’t offend (people) when I tell them they look just like their dog.”

First Lt. Ian Lucas, an air weapons officer with the 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, and his wife, Gen, said the contest



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Gen Lucas with Lucy and 1st Lt. Ian Lucas with Dupont are eligible to compete in the Veterinarian Clinic’s pet look-alike contest.

gives them something fun to do with their two dogs, Lucy and Dupont.

“We think the contest is a great idea,” he said. “We’re crazy about our dogs. “They’re part of our family.”

To enter the contest, pet owners must ensure cats and dogs must be up to date on all vaccinations. Photos featuring cats and dogs will be posted at the Vet Clinic and judged in separate categories, Ms. Hart said.

Contest photos will remain on display at the clinic throughout May and will be available to participants at the end of the month.

For more information, contact Vicki Hart at 327-8448 or visit the clinic in Building 703, from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Base uses ‘beneficial bugs’ to speed clean-up at contaminated sites

Environmental Management Division

Imagine picking up a half-teaspoon of soil from your back yard. If you examine the soil with a powerful microscope, you will find that the material is literally teeming with life. This life, invisible to the naked eye, takes the form of microbes, often nicknamed “bugs”. In fact, in a typical half-teaspoon of soil, there may be as many as 100 million individual bugs, representing many thousands of microbe types such as bacteria. These naturally occurring bugs are vital workhorses, and we couldn’t do without them. They are the cause of last year’s autumn leaves slowly becoming mulch. They are also responsible for converting food waste in your backyard compost pile into rich, useful fertilizer for the garden. These “beneficial bugs” exist almost everywhere in the environment, and, like all living things, they need food, water, air and decent “living conditions.” Robins is leading the way in harnessing these hardworking bugs in a special way. Like most Department of Defense installations, Robins has areas on base where the soil and groundwater have been impacted by past industrial operations essential to our mission. “Robins is engaged in an aggressive clean-up program of these environmental sites. In fact, we have already achieved great success by completing the clean-up at most sites,” Steve Coyle, Environmental Man-agement Division chief, said. “We are now applying cutting-edge technologies to help us clean up the remaining sites even faster, and the ‘bugs’ are an important ingredient in



Courtesy photo Robins uses microbes to help clean up sites around the base.

this process.” The way Robins is applying “beneficial bugs” involves the microbes’ need for a food supply. There are a number of species of these bugs that can use the contamination remaining in soil and groundwater as their food source. Some bugs can “eat” the left-overs from fuel contamination, for example, and others can use solvents as a food source. The benefit these bugs bring is that when they finish eating the contamination, there are no harmful residuals left - in essence, the contamination disappears. “Since these bugs occur widely in nature, Robins is just using nature’s processes to help accelerate the clean-up program,” said Fred Otto, restoration program manager. Four environmental sites on base have taken advantage of the beneficial bugs to help accelerate the clean-up process known as bioremediation. Bioremediation has resulted

in a significant reduction in the time required for clean-up of these sites. As a result, environmental regulatory agencies have agreed that each of these four sites either has been successfully cleaned up or is approaching completion. The completion step is especially important for Robins. When clean-up is complete, the base no longer has to perform expensive monitoring of these sites. Even more importantly, such sites can be made available for new or expanded mission-related activities. Robins has been singled out recently as a leader within the DoD in use of beneficial bugs. A DoD-sponsored research program, the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, or ESTCP, along with GeoSyntec Consultants, recently selected Robins for a field test of bioremediation. This test will evaluate specific “living conditions” to see if beneficial bugs can be encouraged to consume contamination even faster. The research effort holds great promise and was the subject of a recent briefing to the Restoration Advisory Board, the Robins-sponsored community involvement forum. Board members reflected a common sentiment following the meeting: It’s exciting to see state-of-the-art research being conducted right here at Robins. This work holds promise for nationwide use in helping return areas to productive mission-related use. The research project will be completed this year, and results will be presented to the board in research journals and at conferences. For more information, contact Mr. Otto at 926-1197 extension 146 or fred.otto@robins.af.mil.

New network training center to open in June

By Lanorris Askew
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Soon information managers seeking certification from the 78th Communication Squadron will have brand new digs. According to Tech. Sgt. Herbert McCray, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Network Training Center, or NTC, the new facility will keep work flowing on base by preventing work stoppage out in the units due to computer systems problems. “The training we give to work group managers helps them help the entire base through constant workflow,” he said. “They’re the first line of defense for an organization’s computer support. It helps the base network reliability rate, which in turn equates to increased base workflow and decreased calls to the network help desk.” The training the managers will receive will include things such as tearing down personal computers, putting them back together, software applications



Tech. Sgt. Herbert McCray is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the new Network Training Center.



U.S. Air Force photo by Lanorris Askew Senior Airman Brad Von Oven helps to program the new NTC by delivering panduit for consolidating cable for wires.

What to know

The 78th Communication Squadron will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Network Training Center Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Col. Silvia Anderson, 78th Mission Support Group commander, will preside. and building profiles. “The new NTC consists of three state-of-the-art classrooms and an administrative office for its staff,” he said. “The NTC is the focal point for all work group manager issues affecting over 145 information managers (civilian and military) assigned to the Center and over 60 associate units across six major commands.” While the old center had only one and a half classrooms and was located in a warehouse, the new center, located across from Multimedia

Services and the base photo lab in Building 301 West Wing, will offer much more. “The old center was hot and not really conducive to learning,” said the sergeant. “The new center offers a variety of network professional courses to communications career field personnel.” Training will be provided by the NTC’s staff of computer technicians and administrative personnel; however, the center has contracted instructors that come in several times a year to teach specific courses. Currently, the staff consists of lead instructor Senior Airman Brad Von Oven; instructors Senior Airmen Jamie Gausemel and Jessica Carson; and assistant NCOIC Staff Sgt. Bronkelly Porter. The NTC will open in early June, and its schedule will be posted on the Robins’ home page under Network Training Center.

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

free, anonymous rides

335-5218 ■ 335-5236 ■ 335-5238

A simple courtesy we all deserve

By Chief Master Sgt. Kevin B. Hamilton
19th Air Refueling Group
Superintendent

Ever wonder why your vehicle insurance went up when you moved to Warner Robins?

If you're like me, your insurance went up when you moved here. Mine went up about \$400 a year, and it shocked me because I thought I was moving to rural America where the rates were reasonable. My insurance agent told me the rates were higher due to the area statistics.

Well, it didn't take me long to see what he was talking about. The first week on my way to work I was almost cut off twice by vehicles changing from the left lane to the right lane in order to get off at the nearest exit, and never once did I see

a turn signal. Of course when I blew my horn to make them aware that the front of my car was only 6-8 feet away from their car when they decided to come over, they thought I wanted them to wave at me. They were really lazy wavers because they only had enough energy to hold up one finger.

Well, I've been here over three years now and have managed to keep my vehicle intact, safe from those impatient, reckless, maniacs who think their turn-signals may burn out when used.

But I have yet to understand it. Have turn signals become optional equipment when purchasing a new vehicle? When out and about at the mall or just the grocery store, the people in Georgia are very friendly. Never have I been bumped into at the store without a quick, "whoops,

I'm sorry, excuse me".

Yet when people get behind the wheel in Warner Robins it's like they almost become Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – racing to fly by another vehicle, nearly taking off someone's left fender just to end up getting stopped at the red light and side-by-side with the vehicle they almost hit.

When the story ends like this it doesn't bother me much, I normally shake it off after a few expletives and fresh air from a crack in the window. However, it sends goose bumps down my spine when I drive by a vehicle that has just been run off the road, hitting a tree head on.

It's not the bent metal or glass on the road in the cold, wet night that bothers me; it's the thought of the little boy or girl who thinks daddy is on his way home to see them, yet will never arrive.

It's bad enough we have to worry about drunk drivers risking our lives as they drive recklessly home after a night out. But it's just plain stupid how we neglect to use a simple turn-signal that was installed to warn others of our intentions to change lanes, a simple courtesy that we all deserve.

As with anything in life there are consequences; driving is no different. When we fail to warn people of our intentions to change lanes, we have the potential to cause accidents, and the result is increased insurances rates, mangled cars, permanent hand-icaps, and unfortunately at times; lost lives. Needless and very senseless consequences cause pain, misery and heartache to all of us in some form or another.

So next time you're driving to work, going to church, or getting out for some fresh air, use that stick on

"It's not the bent metal or glass on the road in the cold, wet night that bothers me; it's the thought of the little boy or girl who thinks daddy is on his way home to see them, yet will never arrive."

the left side of your steering column that some engineer put there to ensure your safety and the safety of others. Treat others like you would have them treat you – signal your intention. In doing so, you will be contributing to lower insurance rates, longer lives, and the overall courtesy on the roads of Warner Robins.

Inconveniences at home nothing compared to war



Geoff Janes is the editor of the Robins Rev-Up.

By Geoff Janes
geoff.janes@robins.af.mil

Today all was right with the world for me. None of the half dozen friends I have who are deployed were killed, injured or taken hostage. I just wish everyone could say the same thing.

I, like most I know, say a prayer for the Americans who protect our national interests every day. But, on the way to work, radio stations report casualties from the Global War on Terrorism. And every day, I think about shooting an e-mail to my deployed military friends, or to my old civilian boss and brother-in-law who both volunteered to go. And often, I do.

But, some days I fight back the urge because it's hard to talk about the good things at home when I know what they're living with.

I think of their families, but I

specifically spend a lot of time thinking of their children – especially when I can see mine daily. I read the headlines; I see the stories in Time, People, local newspapers ...

There's always a story of how someone returned from the war and overcame losing an arm or leg, or something about a family recovering from the loss of a loved one. And then I go to work in my air conditioned office and at times slip into complain mode. As a journalist, I would absolutely upset one of my heroes – Ernie Pyle.

Pyle was the prominent journalist during WWII. He went to the front lines, and he wrote about life in a war zone. A lot of folks call it propaganda, but in his stories, he made heroes out of ordinary men - school teachers, auto mechanics, farm boys ... they were all fighting for the American way.

His loyalty to the country ended up costing him his life April 18, 1945. On a small island in the Pacific, a Japanese machine gunner ripped one through his temple and destroyed the nerves that gave the folks back home a look into the heroes and horrors of war.

And again, I sit at my desk and complain about all the glass balls I'm juggling and praying I don't drop one.

Still, I go home to my healthy wife and children, my dog and cat. I have dinner with the family and turn on the television. And many times when the news comes on, I changed the channel as images from the war flash on the screen.

It's not that I'm not interested in what's going on over there, but working in the public affairs office we get the news all day long. It just gets to be a little overwhelming. And then I realize I

can turn off the war; my deployed friends and family members can't.

During the 2003 Christmas season I played with my kids, spent time with my family, and took it easy. At the same time, my good friend, Army Staff Sgt. Robbie Massey hopped on a Humvee to pick up the unit's mail. He was shooting the bull with the driver about how it was only five days to Christmas when his convoy was attacked.

Three pieces of shrapnel in his knee, two more in his shoulder, a return volley of fire later, and he was scared for life. He got the Purple Heart for his actions. My wife and I, on the other hand, complained about unfinished shopping.

Here it is more than a year later, and he has deployed to the Middle East yet again. I got an e-mail from him this morning saying all was well, and it was a lot easier this deployment than the

last. He mentioned that the progress that has been made is very evident. He also told me the three guys we used to hang out with when we were both stationed in Italy are there with him.

I was glad to hear from him.

I said a prayer, responded to his e-mail, looked at my old uniform that I keep in my home office to help me remember and went to work.

And, all the way there, all I could do was thank God for my friends. And I thanked God for America's neighbors, her sons and daughters, fathers and mothers in uniform.

Lest anyone working in corporate or blue collar America ever forgets, if they weren't over there, we might be.

So OK, I'll admit there are some inconveniences for those of us back home, but an improvised explosive device on the way to the post office isn't one of them.

Commander's Action Line

Col. Greg Patterson
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing



Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-

mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Security Forces.....	327-3445
Services Division.....	926-5491
EEO Office.....	926-2131
MEO.....	926-6608
Employee Relations...	926-5802
Military Pay.....	926-3777
IDEA.....	926-2536
Base hospital.....	327-7850
Civil engineering.....	926-5657
Public Affairs.....	926-2137
Safety Office.....	926-6271
Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline.....	926-2393
Housing Office.....	926-3776

Swing shift food, beverages unavailable

I work in Building 640 on the swing shift (2-10:30 p.m.). I have noticed that the snack bar closes before we start work. That leaves us with the snack machines – usually a limited and dismal choice.

We did have fruit juices in one of the vending machines, but I was informed that the lady in charge of our snack bar opposed any fruit juices being sold, and the juices were removed.

The machine has since been broken, not repaired, and may as well be removed. If the

organization operating the snack bars cares about everyone – including swing shift personnel, they would ensure a decent variety of snacks and drinks were available to us – including fruit juice. The argument I heard was that the machines cut into the snack bar sales.

My answer: lower the prices in the snack bar because we on swing shift can't use it anyway. Please, sir, give us a good variety of snacks and drinks to choose from (rather than the vending machine), and include fruit juice selections.

Commander's reply: Thanks so much for bringing this to my attention, and I apologize for

the inconvenience.

You were misinformed on why the machine was no longer working. The company we contract with decided it was no longer profitable to carry the full line of juices.

Since juice has an expiration date, and the product was not moving fast, many had to be destroyed and the vendor was losing money on this particular machine.

He unplugged the machine and was unable to take further action due to a change in personnel on his staff.

They had not completed the proper paperwork

to gain access to your building.

Here is some good news: We've asked the vendor to place a machine in this building that carries water, sodas and a line of juice, and he has agreed.

Now that his personnel have access to the building, he hopes to have this new machine operational by the end of the week. We're also checking into the possibility of expanding our snack bar operation to include extended hours.

Should you have any problems in this area in the future, please contact Jon King, Base Restaurant manager, or John Filler, Business Operations Flight Chief, at 926-5491.

Remember to slow down

There have been

192

speeding tickets issued
calendar year to date.

How the points add up

Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 6 months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

10 miles =	3 points
11 - 15 miles =	4 points
16 - 20 miles =	5 points
21+ miles =	6 points

Source: AFI 31-204



Airmen Against Drunk Drivers is a 24-hour-service that provides rides to those who have consumed alcohol and need transportation home.

The program is run by volunteers from across base, and those who use the service aren't subject to adverse action.

To request a ride, call: 335-5218, 335-5238 and 335-5236.

Best metro format newspaper in the Air Force 2003, 2004 and Best metro format newspaper in Air Force Materiel Command 2002, 2003, 2004



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New phone system offers modern features

By **Holly L. Birchfield**
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

During recent months, workers in several base organizations have traded their black analogue phones for the S-8700, a digital phone system with features that help increase productivity.

First Lt. James Rubstellio, a communications officer with the 78th Communications Support Squadron, said the digital service is giving people Air Force-wide more choice in how they communicate in the business world.

“This gives us so many more

options of how we can set up phones in offices,” he said. “You can set up phone loops, where a line will ring from desk to desk until someone picks it up, as well as set up an option where someone else in your office can pick up on your individual line.”

Each person is assigned a phone number, with three lines available for answering, transferring and conferencing calls, voice mailbox and phone directory, which puts others’ phone numbers at workers’ fingertips.

Ariel Gonzalez, a voice switching specialist and a quality assurance evaluator with the

78th CS, who oversees the Virginia-based Avaya contract for the phone system, said the digital system brings many of the conveniences commercial phone plans provide to the workplace.

“It gives you the neat features like call forwarding, call conferencing and other features you get on your civilian phone,” he said. “People are used to having those features on their home phone. Now, they can have them at work too.”

Fred Hall, a management analyst with the 78th Air Base Wing’s Resource Management

Services Division, who got the new system about two months ago, said the new setup makes getting in touch with people easier.

“The main feature that I like is that we all have separate lines now,” he said. “So, everyone isn’t rushing around, trying to answer a bunch of phones. That and the fact you can look up numbers on the phone’s directory helps save a lot of time.”

The 78th CS expects to have the system implemented base-wide in the near future. About 50 percent of the base currently has the digital single-line service.

You’ve got (voice) mail

Etiquette tips for voice mail:

- When creating a greeting, restate your name and current status, leaving the caller with an alternate way of receiving information.
- Do not give out specific personal information, such as if you’re on vacation or on temporary duty assignment.
- Check voicemail messages often, returning calls as promptly as possible.
- When answering calls, always greet the caller in a professional manner.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Fred Hall, 78th Air Base Wing management analyst, uses one of the new phones.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Master Sgt. Claudia Lowe advises Senior Airman Marvin Arida.

Career advisor for enlisted Airmen discusses changes

By **Lanorris Askew**
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Master Sgt. Claudia Lowe’s job keeps her moving, and according to the active duty career assistance advisor, or CAA, she’s moving with a purpose.

With recent additional responsibilities added to her position and changes to various aspects of Robins’ enlisted professional development opportunities, Sergeant Lowe wants to ensure everyone knows about them.

“The job (of career assistance advisor) carries a lot of responsibility and requires more hard work than meets the eye,” she said. “For me it’s very rewarding and satisfying to be able to serve the people I live and work with every day, in a positive way.”

One of the changes she wants to announce is in the supervision of the First Term Airman’s Center, or FTAC.

The four-week program designed to help new Airmen transition from a training to a mission-oriented environment now falls under the CAA.

What to know

Sergeant Lowe is looking for professional and articulate senior noncommissioned officers to teach to teach at the upcoming senior noncommissioned officer professional enhancement seminar August 1 through 4. For more information on volunteering contact Sergeant Lowe at 222-0178 or e-mail her at 78MSS.CAA.

care of our first-term Airmen, we won’t let them miss mandatory appointments,” she said. “The target audience is all first term Airmen who are 12 to 15 months from their date of separation.”

DTS is a four-hour briefing given by base personnel who provide necessary information individuals need to make well thought out and informed career decisions.

Sergeant Lowe said she believes if Airmen attend the DTS and supervisors follow-up, it will practically eliminate the critical status career briefings.

Critical status career briefings target first-term Airmen who are within 60 days of their Career Job Reservation or Retraining window closing who have not yet applied for a CJR, or are on a waiting list and have not considered or applied for retraining.

“Supervisors are required to accompany Airmen to this appointment,” she said.

Professional enhancement course supervision is another addition to the CAA position.

“All professional enhancement courses which include the Airman, noncommissioned officer and senior noncommissioned officer courses are now planned, organized and facilitated by the CAA,” she said.

While the job of the CAA is growing, so is the environment. Robins recently opened its newly constructed state-of-the-art Professional Development Center which houses FTAC, Airmen and NCO professional development seminars, an Airman Leadership School overflow classroom and an auditorium used for other enlisted career enhancement activities.

Sergeant Lowe took on the CAA position in February.

Squadrons hold open house for family



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
The 52nd and 53rd Combat Communications Squadrons took a break from exercises and held an open house for family members April 27 at their training area. It was a chance for families to see what the Airmen do on their jobs. Above, Staff Sgt. Eric Brown, 52nd CBCS, shows his wife, Missy, and daughter, Marissa, 2, a mobile air control tower.

Military spouses honored today

A Spouses Appreciation Day will be held today at the following facilities: how to make the library user friendly at the base library at 10:30 a.m.; how to get fit and the resources available to you at the fitness center at 1 p.m.; lawn care equipment maintenance class and receive a 10 percent discount on any lawn equipment rented that day at outdoor recreation at 2 p.m.; receive a free 10-point car care check-up and learn how to do it at auto skills center from 3 - 4 p.m.; free fountain drink with any food purchase at Pizza Depot all day and free special dessert with purchase of lunch (a \$4 value) at the Enlisted and Officers’ Club.

‘Picnic in the Park’ set for May 19

A “Picnic in the Park,” presented by Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Committee and the Robins Family Support Center, will be held at Robins Park May 19 from 5-8 p.m. The event is for families of deployed military members. There will be free food and games. For more information, contact the FSC at 926-3453.

Museum art show concludes Tuesday

The Southern Wings Art Show features aviation artists Jim Balletto, Wade Meyers, Marc Stewart and Russell Smith. Their artwork will remain on display in the Museum of Aviation’s Art Gallery until Tuesday. The Art Gallery is located on the second floor of the Eagle Building.

— All from staff reports

Servicemembers can earn more money while deployed

By **Army Capt. Patrick Sampsell**
208th Finance Battalion

AFGHANISTAN (AFP) — The U.S. government offers any servicemember serving in a designated combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or directly supporting of a combat zone, an opportunity to participate in a savings program that is free, guaranteed and fully backed by the U.S. government.

Whether active duty, Reserve or National

Guard, servicemembers are eligible to contribute up to \$10,000 to a no-risk, no-fee, program that pays 10 percent annual interest, compounded quarterly. Moreover, they can leave funds in the program for up to 90 days after redeployment and the account will continue to draw interest.

Servicemembers are able to contribute to their Savings Deposit Program account on a monthly basis. The maximum amount per month is limited to the individual’s unallotted income, the amount remaining after the col-

lection and payment of all existing taxes, allotments and debt obligations.

To establish an account, visit the local finance office with a current Leave and Earnings Statement and make a deposit by cash, check or money order.

It’s intended that deposits made remain in the program at least until the person redeploy or moves. Withdrawals are limited during the time within the designated area to those necessary to preserve the health or welfare of the servicemember or their family.

Life savers



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Dennis Walker, left, waits to use the defibrillator while Tim Kurtz breathes for a ‘patient’, during an exercise April 28 in Building 215. Staff Sgt. Jera Elmore and Master Sgt. Vince Green assess the exercise.

Air Force continues search for Junior ROTC instructors

Officials continue to search for qualified instructors to serve in rapidly expanding Air Force Junior ROTC programs, said Jo Alice Talley, chief of instructor management for Air Force Junior ROTC at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The Air Force is opening 48 new Junior ROTC units in high schools in 21 states, with more to follow. The new units will be ready for cadets in the fall.

“To meet our expansion goal, we need a total of 35 officers and 60 (noncommis-

sioned officers) to serve in the new units,” Ms. Talley said. “In addition to the new positions for the upcoming school year, we anticipate another 50 to 75 positions in existing units that will be vacated through instructor retirement.”

For more information about instructor opportunities, call toll free (866) 235-7862, extension 35275 or 35300; DSN 493-5275 or 5300; or visit www.afoats.af.mil.

— Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service

Allergy clinic physician gives advice on heading off, coping with allergies

By Holly L. Birchfield
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

If spring has you having a sneezing fit, Dr. Jeffrey Freeland said with the right adjustments you can breathe easier this allergy season.

Pollen, dust, mold and grass are just a few things that can leave people reaching for tissues. But Dr. Freeland, 78th Medical Group Family Practice Clinic medical director, said taking the necessary precautions this spring can help lessen allergy symptoms.

“The most common allergy we see is hay fever,” he said. “People who have this allergy tend to have watery, itchy eyes, runny nose, dry skin, and post-nasal drip.”

The doctor, who sees hundreds of patients for allergy treatment yearly, said while severe allergies may require more extensive treatments, those with minor allergies can be treated with over-the-counter medications.

“Most allergies are the cause of histamine release in the body in response to an irritant, which is usually pollen this time of year,” he said. “The first line of treatment for this type of allergy is an antihistamine - the classic version being Benedryl or a non-drowsy version like Claritin-D.”

Staff Sgt. Leonard Johnson, a clinic allergy technician here, conducts allergy tests on military members, retired military and their families.

“To find out if someone has an allergy to something, we take the allergen and prick the skin with it,” he said. “We usually wait about 30 minutes or so. If they’re allergic, the skin will bubble up, and they’ll have some kind of reaction. We then measure their reaction to determine their level of allergy.”

While allergies vary in severity, the sergeant said with the right lifestyle choices and medications, most people are able to live with them.

Cindy Bizailion, a 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing logistics trainer and course instructor, has lived with allergies for more than 20 years, and said while symptoms can be uncomfortable, she has found ways to live a quality life.

“It’s rough,” she said. “I have to be proactive with my overall

How to minimize allergies

An allergy is the body’s reaction to outside stimuli, such as pollen, animal dander, mold and dust mites. Here are some ways to put a cap on allergy reactions:

- Check pollen count and make adjustments to daily activities.
- Avoid yard work without a mask.
- Take an antihistamine.
- After being exposed to allergens, wash hands, face and clothes.
- Use dehumidifier to reduce molds in the home.
- Use nasal irrigation with saline solution.
- Keep pets out of bedrooms.
- Remove stuffed animals and clean curtains, rugs and carpets often.
- Use pillow and mattress covers.
- Minimize outdoor activities in the morning when pollen levels are highest.
- Keep windows closed and use air conditioner if possible in house and car.

Source: National Institute of Environmental Health



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

health condition, by taking my allergy medicine and getting allergy shots about every two weeks. [It’s part of my life] but I don’t let it drive my life.”

Dr. Freeland said making small adjustments in one’s life can help prevent reactions.

“There’s a lot of ways that you can head-off allergies,” he

said. “Check the pollen count. If you’re an allergy sufferer, and you know that the count is high, you want to try not to be outside that day. If you have to be outside, have your antihistamine on hand.”

Dr. Freeland recommends that those with allergies wash their hands and change clothes

soon after outdoor activity to avoid carrying allergens into the home.

If allergy symptoms still persist, Dr. Freeland said performing home treatments for nasal congestion, such as nasal irrigation with salt water, is an effective way to flush out allergy-causing congestion.

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Military moms balance commitment to family, service

By Holly L. Birchfield
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Even though Tech. Sgt. Robyn Owens doesn’t see herself as a heroine - her daughter does.

When Sergeant Owens, 5th Combat Communications Group Group Ancillary Training noncommissioned officer in charge, isn’t spending long hours in the field training, she’s working hard at her second job - caring for her 9-year-old son, Kyle, and 11-year-old daughter, Krystal.

While the 36-year-old N.J. native said balancing her military career with taking care of her children can be challenging, she’s deeply committed to both.

“It’s like going to your second job,” she said. “I’m a single mom who has to be the mom and the dad. You make sacrifices to balance everything.

“I’ll go [to work] on Saturday, if it means I get to a play or game they’re doing earlier that week,” she added. “If I have to skip lunch and come in and make up work then that’s what I’ll do, because it’s important that my kids know that they’re No. 1.”

Staff Sgt. Tomekia Reese, a 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron traffic management journeyman, relates to those pressures. And, she knows deployments may prevent her from enjoying some special moments with her 2-year-old daughter, Tamia.

“(Most) people in the civilian world are able to be with their kids every day,” she said. “For me, I wonder if I’m going to get called to go [on temporary duty] somewhere, when I go to work tomorrow.”

When duty calls, a family care plan gives her the peace of knowing her daughter is in good hands while she’s away. The plan is an arrangement set up through the servicemember’s first sergeant and designates short- and long-term caregivers.

Master Sgt. Anthony Clay, 19th Operations Support Squadron first sergeant, said military single parents and dual-military parents have 30 to 60 days to set up the care plan, upon arrival at a duty station.

“Members submit an Air Force Form 357 to their first sergeant designating someone, whether it’s a close friend or family, they want to care for their children if they get tasked with a deployment or contin-



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Staff Sgt. Tasha Pierce and her son Treyvon, 3, play with his remote control car.

gency,” he said. “Having a good plan in place will ensure your family gets the proper care and lets your unit know they’re taken care of.”

Even though Sergeant Reese has a family care plan, she said the heartache of being away from her daughter recently was almost unbearable.

“I missed out on Thanksgiving and Christmas with her,” she said. “I really wanted to be with her this Christmas because she was old enough to know what was going on. I sent her stuff, but I wasn’t there to see her facial expressions and her glow. I cried a lot.”

Reconnecting with her daughter was an incredible feeling, the staff sergeant said.

“When I walked in, she was in my brother’s room, and my mom called out to her that someone wanted to see her,” she said. “She came around the corner and had this ‘Home Alone’ look on her face and cried out, ‘Mommy!’ She walked over to me and gave me a hug. That was a great feeling.”

The effects of sacrifice and emotions military moms feel is

also felt by their children as well - as Staff Sgt. Tasha Pierce, 99th Air Refueling Squadron’s commander support staff non-commissioned office in charge, can attest.

“The first time I came back from a deployment, [my son’s] face just lit up and he cried out, ‘Mommy! Mommy!’” she said.

“He gave me a big hug and wouldn’t leave my side. Everywhere I went, he held onto my leg, like he thought I was going to leave him again. It took him a while to see that I wasn’t going anywhere. Seeing him like that, let me know just how much it affects him when I’m gone. But, it also let me know that no matter where I go, he’ll always know I’m his mommy.”

While Staff Sgt. Apple Taylor, a 116th Maintenance Squadron information manager and new mom, doesn’t know what it’s like to leave her 20-month-old daughter, Autumn, thousands of miles behind, she knows the day will come.

“I’m probably going to deploy next year, and I dread even the thought of it,” she said. “It’s probably going to be the rough for me, since I’ve never been away from her.”

But the 21-year-old Airman said having the support of her active-duty husband and the the Air Force family she has grown to love helps her face the realities that come with her dual roles.

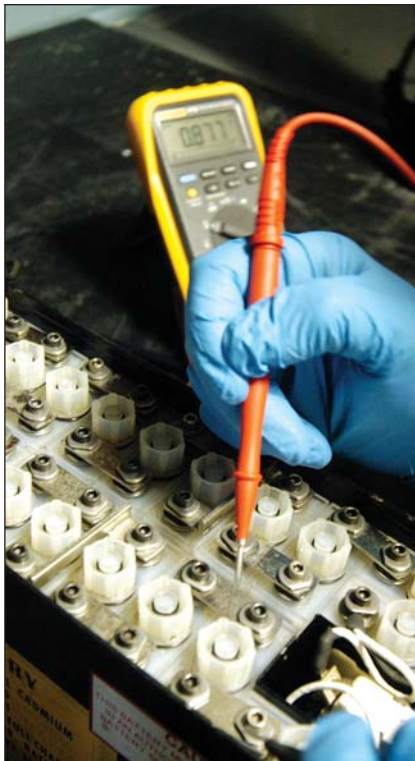
As Mother’s Day, approaches many moms will spend time around the dinner table or enjoy a special card - But Sergeant Owens said this year will be an extra special celebration for her and her son.

“He asked me to go to the Mom Prom at the Smith Community Center this year,” she said. “When he found out that it’s only going to cost \$1 a ticket, he suggested that we go. I think it’s going to be a special time for both of us.”

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STAFF SGT. TASHA PIERCE
99th Air Refueling Squadron's commander support staff NCOIC



A worker tests battery cells to make sure they're charging properly.

By Lisa Mathews
lisa.mathews@robins.af.mil

"You have to be able to adapt. I always tell the employees to keep their roller skates on because they're moving from job to job."

CARL NELSON
hydrostat shop supervisor



The hydrostat shop, part of the 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group, is not a large shop. But when it comes to accomplishing their jobs, supervisor Carl Nelson says he'll put his team up against anyone.

"The key factor is the people. This team has bonded together through good times and bad, but they always keep the mission's goals No. 1, no matter what," Mr. Nelson said.

The shop is responsible for testing cylinders, such as fire extinguishers and fire bottles. They also have the battery shops where they test and charge batteries for different aircraft. In the dry paint shop, they use a dry mixture, spray it on the various items and then cook them - sort of like the process used in ceramics. They also have the halon reclamation shop.

The group is so organized and mission focused that the Operation Risk Reduction Team mentioned the shop's good practices when they presented the FARR out briefing.

Two of the unique workloads completed within the hydrostat shop are the reclamation of halon and powder coating.

Halons have been used for fire and explosion protection since the 20th century. They are low-toxicity, chemically stable compounds that, as long as they remain contained in cylinders are easily recyclable for reuse.

"We are the only halon reclamation center for the Air Force," Mr. Nelson explained. "People don't understand what is required in this process. We don't just drain bottles.

"It goes through a reach system and a sample has to be taken and lab analysis has to be 99 percent pure," he said.

The work in halon reclamation is important as this ozone-depleting product is no longer being produced. Mr. Nelson said the current supply of halon 1202 will possibly last until 2012. Of halon 1211 there is about a 40-year supply.

The shop worked with Environmental Management for the powder coat facility.

"They gave us the funding for this, and we've eliminated 95 percent of the harmful chemicals we used," Mr. Nelson said. "The powder coating is a lot more durable long-lasting and safer. The items are coming back from the field not having to be repainted and it



William Cavender, pneudraulics mechanic, sprays a powder coating on a life raft cylinder, which is part of the process that prevents corrosion.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Steven Garnto, pneudraulics mechanic, tests a KC-135 engine firebottle.

'Can do'

Hydrostat shop team works with positive attitude

really makes a difference.

Meeting the standards

The hydrostat shop is Department of Transportation certified. Mr. Nelson said that means they must meet both Air Force and DOT standards.

"The Air Force has a set of guidelines by the technical orders - this basically tells you how to hydrostat test the bottle. They don't go into details. DOT guidelines give you specifics - what pressure, how often, expansion rate, the whole nine yards, and we have to be in compliance with that," he said.

Because the shop is DOT certified, they can have a surprise inspection at any time. On inspections to date, the shop has passed.

Change is the name of the game

Workloads can change in a minute at the hydrostat shop. The shop's supervisor recalled an instance when there was a problem with a C-5 pressure switch.

"It was a faulty switch made by the manufacturer and we, as a team, got with engineering and the equipment specialist. We disassembled one and saw we could rebuild it.

"Instead of grounding the C-5 air-

craft, we were able to produce approximately 56 switches that passed. We went to two shifts to produce these items to keep the aircraft going," he said.

The turnover in work, and sometimes rapid change from one task to another, requires the shop's workers to be flexible.

"You have to be able to adapt. I always tell the employees to keep their roller skates on because they're moving from job to job," Mr. Nelson said.

Pride in their workplace, pride in their work

Although the hydrostat shop is located in the second oldest building on base, the workers there have a great deal of pride in their workspace. This, in part, led to the shop's being recognized by the FARR team. Another factor was the adherence to safety procedures. Keeping their work area neat, organized and safe is critical to the shop.

"Our employees are very ergonomic and safety oriented because this can be a very dangerous shop," Mr. Nelson said. "You can lose your life in just a second. I've always instructed the employees, whether a bottle is charged



Richard Jones tightens a valve on a halon storage cylinder.

or not, to treat it as if it is because it can blow up on you in a second and kill you."

Practicing safety and neatness does not keep the workers from enjoying their jobs and co-workers. The supervisor said everyone is willing to pitch in and lend a hand when another worker needs assistance.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

To have an item listed in the bulletin board, send it to Angela Trunzo at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.

Deployed Families Bowling Day
The Family Support Center will hold a Deployed Families Bowling Day, from 2 - 4 p.m., Sunday at the Bowling Center. The free event is open to families of deployed military members. Families must register for the event by today. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Michael Bullard at 926-3453.

SOLE luncheon
The Warner Robins Chapter of the International Society of Logisticians will meet Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Georgia Room of the Officers' Club. Guests should be seated no later than 11:30. The featured speaker is United States Coast Guard Cmdr. Alan L. Reagan. He will speak on post-9/11 port security and logistics and will present a video of Coast Guard boardings of

container ships in international waters off the coast of Georgia. Commander Reagan is a former adjunct professor of logistics for Georgia College & State University at the Robins Resident Center.

ASMC luncheon
The American Society of Military Comptrollers luncheon will be Thursday at the Officers' Club ballroom at 11:30 a.m. The program will include the presentation of annual scholarship award winners. Cost is \$8 for members and \$9 for non-members. To attend, contact a ticket representative: Kathy Piper at 327-1410, Amy Galeazzo at 222-0381 or Cynthia Drosos 926-2475.

Graduation ceremony
The Robins Education Office will host the 2005 Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation Hangar One. The guest speaker will be Chief Master Sgt. Billy Doolittle, Center Command Chief

Master Sergeant. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

PTO board elections
Robins Elementary School PTO board will hold their 2005-06 elections May 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. If you have any questions, contact the school at 926-5003.

MPF hours
The Military Personnel Flight's customer service office will be open May 14 from 9 a.m. to noon for issuance of identification cards to dependents and retirees. Common Access Cards (CAC) will also be issued to eligible personnel. Replacement of lost CACs must be accompanied by a memorandum from commander, first sergeant, director or designated contracting officer. Questions should be directed to customer service at 327-7361 or 327-7362.

'Jazz at Six' concert series
The Afro Jazztet will perform during the Museum of Aviation "Jazz at Six"

series May 17. The group has performed at the Ed Wilson Centerplex, the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Theatre Macon, the Douglas Theatre, the Crown Plaza and the Cupola. Admission is \$7 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. For more information, contact Linda Pullen at 926-6870.

OSC meeting
The Officers' Spouses Club will meet for lunch May 19 at the Officers' Club at 10:30 a.m. for the social and 11 for lunch. The program will include the annual scholarship luncheon, and Brig. Gen. Chris Anzalone, Center vice commander, will be the guest speaker. Childcare will be available at the Child Development Center for ages 5 and younger. Call Trista Fredell at 922-6626 for information and to make your childcare reservations (must be made by May 16). OSC reservations must also be made by May 16. Call Suzanne Cahill at 329-0489 for all reservations and cancellations.

SERVICES BRIEFS

Civilian Recreation
Bingo at the base restaurant will be closed today and Sunday and will return Wednesday.

Come out and roll the dice for great fun and prizes during Bunco May 16 at the Smith Community Center. Games begin at 6 p.m. in the ballroom.

Enlisted Club
A Texas Hold 'Em tournament will be held May 15 with a practice and warm-up sessions from 2 - 2:45 p.m., sign-ups starting at 2:45 p.m. and games starting at 3 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winners of the first round session and first through eighth places of the final round. The tournament is limited to the first 64 players. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers.

The rock n' roll group "Five Star Iris" will perform Saturday from 9 p.m. - 1 am. Cost is \$5 for club members and \$8 for nonmembers.

A Mother's Day brunch will be held

Sunday from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Cost is free to all wives of members and their children 5 years old and younger, \$5.95 for members' kids ages 6 - 12, \$8.95 for guests ages 13 and older and \$11.95 for nonmembers.

A Members First Plus membership dinner will be held May 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. Cost is free for members, \$5 for guests and \$10 for nonmembers.

Information, Tickets and Travel
Yard sales will be held at the Smith Community Center, Building 767, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, June 4, July 9 and Aug. 13. Cost of tables is \$7 each and should be paid for on the Saturday prior to the event. Tables can be set up beginning at 7 a.m. To make reservations, visit the ITT office, Building 767.

Wild Adventure season passes are available for \$60 and includes general admission to concerts. Parking passes are also available for \$22.

Sign up for a shopping trip to the Perimeter Mall in Atlanta May 14 with

the ITT office. This shopping experience will include 195 retailers and several food court restaurants and specialty kiosks. Cost is \$25 for Officers' and Enlisted club members when they show their Members First Plus club card and \$30 for non-club members. Price includes breakfast at Chic-fil-A in Stockbridge. The bus will depart from the parking lot across from the Smith Community Center at 7:30 a.m. and will return from the mall at 6 p.m. Deadline to register is Tuesday. For more information, call 926-2945.

Officers' Club
Show mom she's the best with a Mother's Day buffet Sunday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cost is \$15.95 members and \$16.95 nonmembers.

Join the fun at Boss N' Buddy night Wednesday with doors opening at 4 p.m. and trivia beginning at 5 p.m. at the Wellston. This event includes prizes and appetizers.

Enjoy dance lessons with Tom Martin Wednesday, May 18 and 25

from 6 - 8 p.m.

Ladies receive a 20 percent discount off their meals Thursday and men receive a 20 percent discount off their meals May 17.

Pizza Depot
Mama is celebrating Pizza Depot's 17th birthday June 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sample new pizza, appetizing entrees and have a piece of the cake. Also come by for a chance to win prizes.

All-you-can eat salad bar is back Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Smith Community Center
A Mom Prom will be held Saturday at 6 p.m. in the community center ballroom. This semi-formal to formal affair to make moms feel special will include light refreshments and music. Moms and guest may get their photographs taken to capture the memories of this special event. Tickets cost \$1 and mom gets in free.

LEAVE/TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.

Mildred E. Cavaco, WR-

ALC/FMRS. Point of contact is Carolyn Barfield at 222-2367
Robert Freeman, WR-ALC/MAN-MPA. Point of contact is Donnie Sims at 222-4014.

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave

recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Angela Trunzo at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Adult tickets are \$3.50; children (11 years old and younger) tickets are \$2. For more information, call the Base Theater at 926-2919.

Today 7:30 p.m. - Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous - Sandra Bullock and Regina King

Having become a media celebrity following her heroic pageant exploits, FBI agent Gracie Hart has been spending more time at the salon than at the shooting range. When her friends are kidnapped in Las Vegas, Gracie's all-out efforts to jump back into action to save them puts her at odds with FBI top brass who don't want to risk losing their mascot.

Rated PG-13 (sex-related humor) 115 minutes

Saturday 6:30 p.m. - Guess Who - Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher

Percy is taking no chances with his daughter Theresa's future. Even before he meets Simon, her latest boyfriend, Percy has him checked out. On paper, he passes with flying colors: great job, good investments and a promising future. But there's one thing the credit report didn't tell him: Simon is white.

Rated PG-13 (sex-related humor) 104 minutes

COMING SOON
May 13 - Sin City - Bruce Willis and Mickey Rourke
May 14 - Beauty Shop - Queen Latifah and Alicia Silverstone

May 20 - The Upside of Anger - Joan Allen and Kevin Costner

May 21 - Fever Pitch - Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon



CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant

General services take place Sundays at 11 a.m. The service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and format. Protestant inspirational services take place Sundays at 8 a.m. Contemporary services take place 11 a.m. Sundays at the Base Theater. This service is informal and includes traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bowling Center

Bowlers pay the regular price while their mom bowls for free on Mother's Day Sunday.

Scotch doubles will be held at 6 p.m. May 14 for \$10 per person. Entrants will draw for partners.

Time to get punched and get rewards with the Bowl for the Stars and Strikes beginning May 15 through Aug. 14. Pick up your three-level punch card and start earning your rewards. For more information, call 926-2112.

A league bowler's appreciation week will be held May 23 - 27. League bowlers pay \$3 for three games.

A 3-person scratch league team meeting will be held May 26 at 7 p.m. League will start June 2 and run for 12 weeks.

A Summer Peterson Point begins May 31 on Tuesdays. Teams will consist of three people.

A kids' fun league will begin June 8. Cost is \$5 per week for eight weeks on Wednesdays. This league is non-sanctioned.

Fitness Center

Fitness Month continues throughout May with the following activities: arm wrestling competition at 11 a.m. today; pilates boot camp from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (no beginners) Saturday; squadron backpack sprint at 11 am. Monday; running shoe clinic at the Health and

Wellness Center at 11 a.m. Tuesday and at 3 p.m. May 16; fusion hi/lo bounce to the beat from 5 - 6 p.m. Wednesday; Schwartz back screening at 11 a.m. Thursday and May 26; power lifting competition at 11 am. May 13; Aerobathon Aero Dynamics from 9 a.m. - noon and water aerobic from 9 - 10 a.m. May 14; aqua fusion from 2 - 2:45 p.m. May 17. Most activities will be held at the fitness center unless noted. Some activities require advance sign-up. For complete details and schedule of events call the fitness center at 926-2128 or the HAWC at 327-8480 or visit www.robins.af.mil/services.

Golf Course

A family day is scheduled for Sunday with a couple's golf outing starting at 9:30 a.m. and cookout after play. Couples will be paired to make four-person scramble teams. Cost is \$20 and does not include green fee or golf car.

A nine-hole parent and child tournament will be held Sunday at 4 p.m. Pairs will be placed into four-person scramble teams. Cost is \$30 per annual green fee team and \$40 per guest team. This package includes cookout, prizes, green fee and cart.

Annual green fee members may invite up to three guests to the members guest day Thursday. The guests will pay green fee and receives a free golf car.

A Seniors Club Championship tournament will be held May 14 and 15 with individual stroke play and net and gross divisions. Entry fee is \$30 for annual

green fee players and \$60 for guests. This event is open to all active duty and retired military 50 years of age and older. To register, call 926-4103.

A membership night barbecue dinner will be held May 20 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person and includes games, prizes, chipping contest, putting contest and pro shop discounts.

Register now for the summer junior golf academy to be held May 31 through June 3. Cost is \$60 and includes four classes and weekly play days during the summer. Age groups consist of 7 - 8; 9 - 11; 12 - 14 and 15 and older. Class size is limited to the first 16 paid juniors. Register at the pro shop.

Outdoor Recreation

Swim lesson registration will begin May 18 at equipment rental, Building 914, with lessons at the Crestview pool. Classes will be held June 7 - 17, June 21 - July 1, July 5 - 15 and July 19 - 29. Cost for "Mommy & Me" toddler class (ages 2 and 3) is \$30 per child. For beginner, intermediate and advanced classes (ages 4 -13) the cost is \$40 per child. All fees are due at time of registration.

Smith Community Center

The America's Armed Forces Kids Fun Run will be held at 9 a.m. May 21 on the track across from the fitness center. The first 100 kids to complete the run will receive a T-shirt. To register, go to americaskidsrun.org. For more information, call the community center at 926-2105.

Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are offered at 9 a.m. Mondays and Fridays in Building 945, FSC annex. For more information, call 926-3453.

Career focus

Military spouses and family members, and displaced civilian personnel can improve job search

skills, and increase opportunities for employment or a career change. For more information, call 926-1256.

Airman's attic

The Airmen's Attic supports junior enlisted members that are establishing a household. E-4s and below are encouraged to visit the attic to find items to help defray the cost of setting up an apartment or home.

Degree completion program application deadline May 30

78th Mission Support Squadron

The 78th Mission Support Squadron’s Education and Training Flight is accepting nominations for the Long-Term, Full-Time Degree Program that funds tuition, books and lab fees for accredited courses leading to a master’s degree or completion of the final year of undergraduate requirements.

The program is limited to Air Force Materiel Command civilians assigned to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at Robins. There are no grade or position restrictions.

Deadline for submissions is May 30.

Nomination instructions can be obtained from directorate training monitors or the Robins home page. Click on the Education & Training link and look for the LTFT package under Downloads.

Those selected for the program will be released from duty to attend classes full time for up to 12 consecutive months beginning with the fall session in August. The degree must be applicable to the individual’s career field. Funding will not be provided for doctorate, second master’s, second undergraduate or associate degrees.

Basic eligibility requirements

- Nominee must be able to complete their program of study within 12 months after the first day of the first enrollment period.
- Nominee must be accepted into a degree program (preferably enrolled and completed several courses) and program must be classified as full-time by the accredited college/university being attended.
- Nominee must possess five consecutive years or more of federal civilian service (excluding military service).
- Nominee cannot have attended another long-term, full-time training opportunity within the past three years.

Troops tie the knot for less with AAFES’ new online bridal boutique

AAFES news service

Wedding season is just around the corner and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s new online bridal store can help military brides-to-be save precious time in planning for their special day.

Military Bride offers savings of 10 to 80 percent on new designer bridal gowns and accessories that authorized exchange customers and their family members can buy wherever they are.

All gowns feature the latest styles in bridal fashion and are made from premium quality fabrics such as Duchess Satin, Venice Lace and English Net. Custom sizing, extra length and petite cuts are also available. Most gowns are stocked for immediate shipping and are easily altered upon receipt.

Military Bride has been in the bridal business for more than 25 years and unlike most bridal stores has a return policy, fast delivery and satisfaction is guaranteed.

To see what Military Bride has to offer, go to www.aafes.com and click on the CentricMall link.

Work place weight loss program gets rave reviews from followers

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

According to June Nelson, if your New Year’s resolution to shed those extra pounds has fallen by the wayside, there’s a way to get it back on track.

The Contracting Home Office’s Lean change agent said she and some members of the 78th Contracting Squadron have found the perfect way to incorporate the ideals of a healthy and fit work force in less time than it takes to eat lunch.

The program is called Weight Watchers at Work and the idea to start a group here came last year during a discussion Ms. Nelson had with Patsy Reeves, Contracting director.

“Ms. Reeves had participated in the program in San Antonio, Texas, and she told us about how convenient it was, and we decided to give it a try,” she said.

Along with co-worker Mickie Cranford, Ms. Nelson decided to see if there was enough interest to start a group here.

“When you start a program and you’re moving toward a healthier lifestyle, you want something that will fit into your schedule,” said Ms. Nelson. “We sent out e-mails querying people who were interested, asking what time



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Pat Wolfe, left, leader of the PK Weight Watchers support group, records Kathy Wheat’s weight at a recent meeting.

was best and ended up with lunchtime meetings.”

Kathy Wheat, a management assistant in the Center’s contract policy and competition advocate division, was one of those queried and said the program has been a great motivating factor for her.

“I can’t do it without them,” she said. “I’ve tried many other plans and actually was on a self-started Weight Watchers program prior to joining the group, but it’s very hard without the group.”

The wife and mother of two teenagers said she has lost 11.2

pounds since starting in November and is confident that with the motivation and support of her group she will easily make her goal of losing 52 pounds in a year.

“It’s all well worth it, and I would recommend joining to anyone,” she said.

And Ms. Nelson said anyone can join.

“There are no restrictions,” she said. “Military, civilian, contractor, male or female can join.”

The group meets every Tuesday at noon in the PK conference room in Building 300.

“Basically what we do is talk about changing lifestyles,” said Ms. Nelson. “We talk about how to move toward a healthier lifestyle that encompasses what we eat and getting plenty of exercise.”

She said it also fits nicely into the Center commander’s healthy and fit work force initiative.

“It kills two birds with one stone,” she said “It helps us with our personal goals in that we want to lose weight and become healthier, more fit individuals, but it also meets the ALC goal as far as work and productivity. It rolls neatly into the package.”

The program has already grabbed the attention of others on base and a second group has spun off in the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing. That group is led by Bonnie M. Jones, Electronic Sustainment Group director, and meets Wednesday in the ESG conference room in Building 300 East.

Editor’s note: No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Mentoring program celebrates successes with picnic

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

While Samel Brown spends most days tracking down bad guys with the 78th Security Forces Office of Special Investigations, his favorite part of the week is making sure Vashon Douglas, the student he has mentored for two years, doesn't become one of them.

"It's important that you intervene while they're at a young, impressionable age," he said. "When I was growing up, I didn't have a mentor, and I know how things were. Through this program we're able to help them get through their challenges."

Mr. Brown said Vashon has shown a lot of progress since they've been together.

"He's a really good kid, and I think it's really fortunate to have this program so that we can both get what we need. I'm doing it for him, but it's self serving as well."

Vashon agreed.

"I really enjoy the time I spend with my mentor," said the Pearl Stephens Elementary School fourth grader. "He's helped me with my reading, math and spelling."

Vashon and fellow students from five local elementary schools traded their pencils, paper and textbooks for water balloons, face paint and snow cones during the annual Raising Educational Achievement for Children in Houston County picnic April 29.

The event, which culminates the year-long REACH mentoring project, was held at Robins' Friendship Park and brought together students and mentors for some fun in the sun.

According to Jywanaya Dillinger, Robins' REACH point of contact, because the school year is so structured, the picnic is an opportunity for the students and their mentors to relax and enjoy a little down time while celebrating the success of another year.

"I think this program is vital because it's important to give back to your community, and this is one way Robins does it," she said. "We go out



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Clockwise from above: Christian 'CJ' Ash, a fifth grader at Pearl Stephens Elementary School, makes spin art while his mentor, Tommy Jarrell, watches. Vashon Douglas, a fourth grader at Pearl Stephens Elementary School, eats his lunch with his mentor, Samel Brown. Third-grader Dockus Teague jumps through an inflatable tunnel.

What to know

REACH is a base-wide mentoring program coordinated through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Houston County. For more information, call Jywanaya Dillinger at 926-5106 or visit <http://pkec.robins.af.mil/Mentor/Mentor.htm>.

to the schools once a week for an hour to mentor students by encouraging attendance and helping raise grades and self-esteem."

REACH began in 1997 and is done in coordination with Houston County Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the heart of Georgia. The program is open to military and civilian workers at Robins.

Mrs. Dillinger said the program



"When I was growing up, I didn't have a mentor, and I know how things were. Through this program we're able to help them get through their challenges."

SAMEL BROWN
78th Security Forces
Office of Special Investigations

targets at risk students, and because they all come from different situations and backgrounds, the program gives them a healthy outlook on their futures – something Candice Ramey, another fourth grader at Pearl Stephens Elementary, knows all about.

"Ever since I got with her (Rita Coefield) my grades have been going up, up, up," she said. "She helps with

a lot of my difficulties, now I know my 12's times tables."

Mrs. Coefield, an electronic technician in the 402nd Maintenance Wing, loves working with Candice too and said her most recent progress report, which had risen from Cs and Ds to all Bs, made her even more proud to be a part of the program.

"We have a lot of kids in the local schools who need some extra help or

some love or attention," she said. "I'm glad to help out."

Patti Conley, Houston County Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the heart of Georgia coordinator, is glad too.

"The military has been wonderful about working with us so that the mentors can have time off from work," she said. "Everyone is wonderful out here. I have the best time with everyone."

Oh say can you sing?



Courtesy photo

The Robins Elementary School chorus, led by Sheila Clopton, sings the national anthem as the Robins Honor Guard presents the colors at the Atlanta Braves game April 29 at Turner Field. About 280 people from Robins attended the game.

ROBINS CLUBS

Aerospace Toastmasters Club 3368 meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the PK conference room, Building 300. If you wish to enhance your communication skills and become a better leader at work and in your community, come join us. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Robert E. Hall at 497-2946 or Brenda Smith at 222-1710.

Air Force Association Carl Vinson Memorial Chapter 296 meets the second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Daedalian Room of the Officers’ Club. For more information, contact Julie Vick at 926-2264 or Lynn Morley at 926-6295.

Officers’ Christian Fellowship meets Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. at a member’s home. The organization encourages all military members to grow in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and fellowship together. OCF serves all active duty officers, enlisted personnel, guard and reserve members, ROTC cadets/midshipmen, international military personnel and civilian employees of military

retirees. For more information, contact Capt. Melissa Cunningham at melissa.cunningham@robins.af.mil or 1st Lt. Ann Walsh at ann.walsh@robins.af.mil

Procurement Toastmasters Club, open to all of Team Robins, meets the first and third Thursday of each month at noon in the Contracting Directorate’s conference room, north end of Building 300. For information, call Lily Fickler at 222-1673.

Reserve Officers Association Chapter 36, The Flying Tigers, holds its luncheon meetings the second Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at the Officers’ Club. Lunch is pay-as-you-go buffet. Membership is open to Reserve officers of any service component, active or retired, and spouses. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Larry Ruggiero at 327-0227 or Lt. Col. Ray Cancilleri at 327-1622.

Editor’s Note: Information is provided by club members. To have your club or group’s information included or updated, submit it to Angela Trunzo at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil.